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JOHN MITCHELL, JR., - EDITOR

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took care of the place and these two white children. Izadore says old Allen has carried him thousands of miles and that he has slept with him many a time. He says he wanted the old Negro to have a home of his own during his last days.

The Negro no doubt feels very grateful to the son of his old "massa" for this generous recognition of him. There has never been a closer friendship, where not interfered with, than that between the old slave and his old master and the latter's descendants. These Negroes know they can always depend upon being assisted by their former masters if they are deserving. They never fear to go to them for a favor, for they know they will not be turned away empty-handed.

THE Richmond correspondent of the Petersburg, Va., INDEX-APPEAL in writing about the street-car situation said:

The conductors have more trouble with women than with men. When a number of persons get on, and while the conductor is helping on the last and signaling for the car to start the ladies have taken seats near the door, that part reserved for colored people and, the rest of the party to move. "I shan't" is the oft repeated, then when the conductor insists they want all the reasons why and finally move putting and talking at and to the discomfort of the conductor as long as they remain on the car. A conductor is, indeed, a chastened individual these days in Richmond and his patience will no doubt be rewarded in another world."

"NEGROES AND STREET-CARS"

THE Richmond, Va., NEWS LEADER has been quite liberal in its views with reference to the citizen of color.

Some of its utterances would have made good reading in the columns of some of our own journals. But evidently the Negro-hating department was not working smoothly or the manager must have been away on his vacation and left no one in charge capable of vilifying and abusing us.

Be that as it may, it is running all right now and its editorial utterances in its issue of the 20th inst. entitled "Negroes and Street-cars" would have done credit to the Richmond Dispatch during the palmiest days of Readjuster Rule. It said:

"The conflict that has arisen here over the seating of the races in the street-cars is an illustration as vivid as we could find of the perpetual conflict we may look for while the experiment of placing two distinct races of people on the same territory and in contact and competition with each other. The street railway company is subjected to tremendous pressure from the white people to take advantage of this new law and separate the races in the cars as far as possible. Obeying this strong public demand, it is confronted with the indignation and resistance of the Negroes and with an attempted boycott of it by all the representatives of that race in the city."

We have enquired carefully as to the source of this "tremendous pressure from the white people" and the street-railway officials admit that it is from people outside, rather than those inside of Richmond, and that this species of race legislation is confined to the legislature of Virginia.

There is no conflict between the white and colored people of this city. It seems however, that General Manager HUFF and his associates are trying to raise the issue and make such a conflict, but both races are objecting.

As to the extent of the disposition of the colored people to walk, a person has only to use his eyes and note the remarkable falling off in the patronage of the street-cars by the colored people of this city. They are staying off the cars and avoiding trouble, and as a result white people only are being carried to the Police Court and fined for violating street-car regulations.

Our people walked before the street-cars were established here. In fact they did most walking for the white folks whose servants they were. We certainly are able to walk now that we are, in a legal sense at least, our own masters.

When we get tired walking, we have our own bus lines, owned by Mr. A. D. PRICE, Mr. W. ISAAC JOHNSON, Mr. A. HAYES and others while their carriages are among the best in the city. Hundreds of colored men have furniture wagons and drays and the hearse can be utilized with the side glasses taken out.

The NEWS-LEADER charges the trouble up to race antagonism and remarks:

"In that antagonism the matter of clothes or manners or comparative intelligence is not considered. The distinction and most exclusive white woman has not the slightest objection to occupying a seat in a car with the humblest white man, provided he is reasonably clean, decent, sober and well-behaved. She does object and her friends object to her occupying with the best dressed, best behaved and most intelligent Negro man in the city, and her feeling is shared all along the social scale down to the poorest and most obscure white woman."

From where did the white gentleman, who wrote that editorial come? Is it possible that he does not know that the antipathy to which he refers exists in only what is usually termed the "poor white trash"? People who came from nothing and are bound for the same station! If he did not know it, why is it that he does not go to Franklin street in this city in the afternoons and look at the most accomplished and beautiful white ladies in this country of charming manners and graceful mien sitting by the side of Negro drivers, who know their places and who never think for a moment of presuming that their presence is noticed otherwise than in a menial capacity.

What is true on the public streets is equally so in the homes.

Negro servants go to and fro knowing that at the side of a person does not disturb the social and further orders in the premises as shall and may make the prayer of our petitioners effectual, but as shown by

absurd reasoning further when it said:

"From the standpoint of the well-dressed, well behaved, clean and intelligent Negro it is a hardship on him to recognize this prejudice and to say that he shall not have his choice when he shall sit in a public conveyance. But the feeling exists, and in our opinion it is as necessary as it is natural. It is one of the safeguards against the breaking down of the barrier between the races and the amalgamation and mixing, which is the worst horror Southern white people can imagine and would be the worst disaster that could befall both races in the country."

The intimation in the above declaration is as significant, from a white man's standpoint as it is horrible. He states plainly that the well-dressed, well behaved, clean and intelligent Negro who is permitted to ride undisturbed as to his place or seat in a street-car is liable to produce the amalgamation or mixing of the races. He therefore intimates that in as much as the consent of both parties is necessary in such cases that this consent can be obtained.

The person who wrote this editorial was evidently so permeated with race prejudice that he was slow to observe the reflection that he was casting upon the females of his own race.

White and colored people, male and female have been travelling upon the street-cars together for forty years. Has this transient acquaintanceship led to the amalgamation and mixing of the races? If it has, name an instance. If it has not, admit that this species of mischievous demagogism is a disgrace to modern journalism.

The public parks and thorough-fares are the places where the white men entice the colored females to deeds of evil and the houses of prostitution known to the police authorities are the places where the devilish bargains are carried out. These then are the places to be dealt with and not the street-cars. For our part, if the NEWS-LEADER is really opposed to this mixing let it begin the crusade against all places of evil and it shall have our cordial support.

"The best thing and the only thing for the Negro to do is to submerge and make the best of it with good nature and patience, for he is in the presence of a race which he cannot fight or overcome, at the mercy of a force so far superior to his own that he cannot deal with it by process of law, by the influence of moral or political force, by intellectual effort or by revolution. In this special case, no injustice is done him. The place assigned him in the cars is as good as that given the whites."

The white man and not the Negro is the one who is making the trouble. The Negro, as a rule, is blessed with big feet and a determination to use them. He is trying to avoid trouble and is going his way in peace. He is not intruding upon the white people of this community, and recognizes a principle which is above the so-called equality of the privileges furnished. He is a citizen and he objects to being singled out from any other citizen. The NEWS-LEADER continues:

"All he is asked to do is to keep to himself and allow the white people to do the same, so that intimate contact between the races shall be avoided as far as possible."

This is too what he is asking of you white people. An "army" of your white men are constantly on picket duty in our localities making themselves familiar and "worrying" some of our blackest girls "to death." The result is very embarrassing for several of our colored people are as "mad as hornets," because they have been forced to ride with white people, the conductors insisting even in the face of their protests that they are white, when they know they are colored.

If you will authorize the colored men to arrest and land in jail all of the white men who refuse to sit by a Negro on a street-car in the day time and stay as close as they can get with the blackest of Negroes in the night-time, we will assure you that the true method of preventing this amalgamation and mixing has been found.

The writer then concludes his article as follows: "The wise course for the colored people is to accept development as they come, but to keep in their mind that the only hope for the peace and comfort of both races is that they shall be separated finally, not by the distance between one seat in a street-car and another, but by miles of territory or ocean, so that the Negro may establish a civilization and government of his own and a country in which he shall stand on his merits and be equal with all the other people there."